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SPRING HINTS



Thomas Black Walnut

Early spring is the time for trimming of trees. All trees from our nursery which were planted last fall should be cut back in order to force more new growth on the young tree. We have been recommending for some years that fall planted trees are best cut back in the early spring. As a general rule all deciduous tree wounds caused by trimming will heal over more quickly and there will be less danger of infection if trimming is done in the early spring after the most severe winter weather and before growth starts on the tree.

Note whether your young trees have been whipped by winter winds until they are quite loose in the ground. If they are, tamp the soil firmly around the roots of the tree. The roots are to gain plant food from the soil, therefore, be sure the soil is in contact with the roots.

Much has been said about fertilizers. If your soil is of a sandy type which does not hold fertility you may well be concerned to some extent about fertilizers. A newly planted tree on most soils, however, does not require much added fertilizer the first few years of its growth. Usually a small amount of tankage or bone-meal mixed with the soil at time of planting the tree together with the natural fertility of the soil is sufficient precaution about fertilizer.

PLANTING AND CARE OF TREES

If possible, plant the trees at once upon arrival; otherwise, heel them in (temporarily plant them) so the roots will not dry out.

IN PLANTING, the holes should be dug wide enough to accommodate the roots and a few inches deeper than the length of the roots. No manure or other coarse material should be used in the holes about the roots. A few handfuls of bone meal or tankage mixed with the soil about the roots will give good results. Only good top soil should be used in filling the holes and this must be firmed well about the roots while the tree is being planted by tamping with a tamping stick which has a smooth round end that will allow the earth to be firmly packed and at the same time not bruise the roots. Most failures in transplanting are due to the planter not tamping the earth well about the roots of the tree or from using water in the holes as the trees are being planted. If water is used and the soil handled while wet, it will harden and shrink away from the roots in drying. For the same reason trees should never be planted soon after a heavy rain or at any time when the ground is very wet, unless the soil is of a sandy type which does not become as paste if worked in while wet.

If the ground is dry, so much the better for planting. The trees may be watered after they are planted. Remove a shovel of earth on two sides of the tree and a foot or more away; fill this depression with water and after this has soaked in, put the dirt back, leaving a loose mulch of soil on top. If the clay is thrown out from the holes and only top soil used in filling the holes—taking this top soil from a circle surrounding the tree when the tree is planted it will be surrounded by a depression or basin a few inches below the surface level. This is a decided advantage.

Trees planted in this way not only live better but grow much faster as the basin about the tree gathers both moisture and fertility during rains and is eventually filled up with the most fertile soil. This method of planting is especially desirable where trees are to be grown without cultivation. It is possible by this method of planting, supplemented with an annual mulch, to grow vigorous trees and profitable orchards easily and cheaply on rough, cheap land, that would be quickly ruined by erosion if cultivated. By sowing sweet clover or other strong growing legumes and rotating with orchard grass crops plenty of mulching material can be grown right where it is needed and at the same time the land will be built up and improved. Keep the mulch about 4 inches away from the tree trunk.

NORTHERN NUT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

GEORGE L. SLATE, SECRETARY
N. Y. EXP. STATION, GENEVA, NEW YORK

THE NORTHERN NUT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION is an organization of people who are interested in growing nut trees in the northern part of the United States and Canada. It is attempting to advance nut culture by such means as:

1 Finding, testing and propagating superior native nut trees. The Association has conducted many contests in which prizes have been awarded to promising new seedlings. The propagation and distribution of these new varieties has been encouraged by the Association. Some of the members exchange cions of new varieties.

2 Assisting members in their cultural problems by referring them to authorities qualified to answer their questions.

3 Holding an annual meeting in September at which papers are presented by members who are authorities on certain phases of nut culture. These papers and the accompanying discussions are published and distributed to all members in good standing. The meetings are held mainly at places of unusual interest to nut growers in the various parts of the northeastern states. One meeting has been held in Canada. Anyone may attend these meetings and participate in the discussions.

4 Demonstrating at the meetings such practices as budding and grafting, or the husking and cracking of walnuts.

5 Exhibiting at the annual meeting promising new seedlings, collections of nuts, propagating tools, cracking machines, etc.

The members come from many walks of life. Farmers, nurserymen, manufacturers, lawyers, doctors, bankers, college professors, experiment station and federal government workers, as well as many others, are among the members. Many are interested in nut culture as a hobby, some are growing nuts commercially, while others are engaged in experimental work intended to improve nut culture.

OVER

ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP

Any grower or prospective grower of nuts will benefit from his membership by gaining information concerning cultural practices, new developments in propagation, knowledge of newer and possibly better varieties, the preparation of nuts for market and methods of marketing.

The prospective nut culturist will learn much that will enable him to avoid expensive mistakes in getting started in nut culture. Beginners may call upon officers or other members at any time for advice and information concerning their nut cultural problems.

Farmers who plant only a few trees to provide nuts for home use may learn the species and varieties best adapted to their section.

The hobbyist, and there are many who find nut growing an interesting hobby, finds the stimulation of interest that comes from contact with others pursuing the same hobby. To the collector of varieties the Association is a clearing house for information concerning new varieties as they are brought to light.

Experiment Station workers and teachers of horticulture in agricultural colleges and universities find meetings of the Association and the published proceedings a most valuable aid in keeping up-to-date in a field of horticulture that is developing rapidly and is destined to become of considerable importance in the future.

The report of the Association contains the papers and discussion presented at the annual meeting. The Association contributes a monthly column on nut topics to the American Fruit Grower.

Additional information concerning the Association and its work and a list of publications on nut culture may be had from the secretary. Inquiries concerning nut culture are welcomed. Association dues are \$2.00 a year, and all persons interested in advancing nut culture are invited to join.

Memberships may be sent to

Carl F. Walker, Treasurer

2581 East Overlook Road

Cleveland, Ohio

TRIMMING NUT TREES. In transplanting the trees they should have the tops reduced according to size. A tree one or two years from the graft should be trimmed back about a third of the preceding season's growth. On older trees cut out undesirable limbs and cut back the preceding season's growth two-thirds. This is done to balance the many hair roots which are lost in digging the tree. The trimming of trees when transplanting is usually practiced with all deciduous trees when transplanting them except where expensive methods of moving them with earth are employed. Many people prefer to keep the present top on a tree. In this case, the tree is usually lost. The top which is reduced in the spring at transplanting time will be regained with its next season's growth. It is always good to leave plenty of leaves on the tree because they are part of the tree's natural function of respiration. Do not attempt to cut off any new growth of the tree until the end of the second growing season. If a side shoot on the trunk of the tree above the graft is growing too fast it is better to pinch the head out of the shoot and allow the few leaves to help shade the trunk of the tree for the first year or two. Allowing the tree to shade itself in this manner is far more important than any preparation we have yet tried. The next best method of shading the trunk of a tree during hot weather is used only on three year trees, or older, by merely wrapping the trunk of the tree with heavy paper or burlap. This should be removed after danger of sun scaling is over in the fall.

Shaping and trimming a tree is, after its second growing season, a matter of good judgment. Almost every one can tell a nicely shaped tree from a poorly shaped specimen and for that reason with thought upon the subject most people know which limbs to cut off and to let on a tree for a good specimen. The tree can be trained each year if necessary. When cutting limbs or branches off make a clean cut close to the tree so it will heal over in as short time as possible. Dead and decaying stubs in a tree are harmful in appearance and to the long life of a tree. A tree is a living thing not endowed with the ability of choosing the place where it will grow and keep itself well groomed. Trees have helped conserve and build up the soils we have today. Let us treat them kindly and give them the care we can.

Prices of TREES Spring 1939

BLACK WALNUT

	Each	Per 10
3 to 4 ft. tall	\$ 1.75	\$15.00
4 to 5 ft. tall	2.00	17.50
5 to 6 ft. tall	2.25	20.00
6 to 7 ft. tall	2.50	22.50
7 to 8 ft. tall, 4 to 5 yrs. old	3.50	30.00
8 to 10 ft. tall	4.00	35.00
10 to 12 ft. tall	4.50	40.00

ENGLISH WALNUT

	Each	Per 10
3 to 4 ft. tall	\$ 2.00	\$17.50
4 to 5 ft. tall	2.25	20.00
5 to 6 ft. tall	2.50	22.50
6 to 8 ft. tall	2.75	25.00

FILBERT, HAZELNUT AND CHESTNUT TREES

	Each	Per 10
1 to 2 ft. tall	\$.75	\$ 6.50
2 to 3 ft. tall	1.00	9.00
3 to 4 ft. tall	1.25	10.00
4 to 5 ft. tall	1.50	12.00
5 to 6 ft. tall	1.75	15.00
6 to 8 ft. tall	2.00	17.50

PECANS, HICANS, HICKORIES, PERSIMMON, HEARTNUT

	Each	Per 10
3 to 4 ft. tall	\$ 2.25	\$20.00
4 to 5 ft. tall	2.50	22.50
5 to 6 ft. tall	2.75	25.00
6 to 8 ft. tall	3.00	27.50

Stanley shellbark trees add 25c per tree to above prices.

J. F. JONES

P. O. Box 356



NURSERIES

Lancaster, Pa.

“BUY DIRECT FROM THE GROWER”